

2105-102  
Eq. No. 2877

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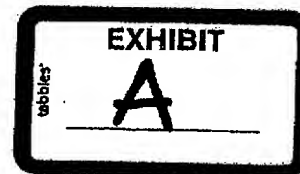


Cisco Patents On-Line (CPOL)

## Patent Idea Details (#78901)

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## #78901: Standard method for gathering device identification and configuration via physical interface



## Status Info

Entered: 19-Apr-2000

Serial #: ---

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Modified: 19-Apr-2000

File Date: ---

Issue Date: ---

View patent: *Not available.*

## Current Inventors:

Fu Lee (flee), Reginald Reed (reginald).

## History:

Submitted on 4/19/2000. Approved by jpbion on 12/18/2000. Requires Attorney Assignment.

## Full Details

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		Division:	SP Systems & Solutions Eng	Site: RESEARCH TRIANGL	Info: <a href="#">View in Director</a>
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**Background:** The identity (e.g. hostname, IP address, CLI code, etc) and configuration (hardware and software)

of any given device can change at any given point in time. Generally this information is available through some sort of network connection or console interface. The problem is different types of devices require different commands in order to retrieve this information. A standard physical interface with standard responses would enable a craft or technician employee verify device identity and configuration by accessing this physical interface.

**Summary:** Physical contact with the interface would automatically signal the device to transmit identity, software configuration and hardware configuration through the physical interface. Identity would be in the form of the current hostname and/or primary IP address along with any associated MAC addresses, CLI code(s) and rack position/location. Software configuration could be anything from the full running configuration on the device to as little as key information the is specifically tagged to be transmitted for software configuration. Hardware configuration would include all vendor part numbers included in the device, along with revision or patch numbers for all field replaceable cards and the main

chassis. The physical interface would ideally be placed at multiple locations on the device (at least front and back) to facilitate easy access no matter what the local racking convention is.

**Advantages:** \*\* physical and logical inventory down to each individual part and chassis be obtained by simply interfacing with the device  
\*\* if this interface is adopted globally in the industry, all inventory could be gathered in the same fashion using the same interface  
\*\* minimal physical access would be required to determine exactly what card revision of cards were in a particular device  
\*\* inventory can be performed automatically without the presence of network connectivity or console interfaces

**Cisco use:** To our knowledge, this idea has not been included in a product or project. Cisco could promote this as a standard for service providers to gather inventory and device identity for all of their devices and equipment, Cisco derived or otherwise. It can also be incorporated into our network management solutions for inventory control and verification.

**Method of detecting use by other companies:** I'm not really sure how we could detect whether or not this is in use by other companies.

**Previous public use:** We're not aware of any.

**First written record date:** ---

**First written record URLs:** ---

**Supporting docs URLs:** ---

**Notes:** ---

## Review Information

Progress:

Review Group	Reviewer Users	Status
		Reviewed

\*Designated Reviewer.

This idea has been **approved**. Please see the [Status Info](#) above for its current status.

**Comments:**

**User ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 12/18/2000 9:55

### REASON FOR APPROVAL:

Identification of inventory in this manner is quite useful for keeping track of large laboratories. In searching DHCP, WINS, LDAP, I have not seen similar methods provided as described here, so I believe this is new.

### OTHER NON-CISCO USERS OF THIS INVENTION:

Any facility with large laboratories.

### DETECTION OF NON-CISCO USE:

You cannot unless you had access to their physical laboratories.

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